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*Flying Operations*

**HELICOPTER ORIENTATION FOR  
SPECIALIZED UNDERGRADUATE PILOT  
TRAINING (SUPT) STUDENTS**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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This instruction implements AFD 11-4, *Aviation Service*. The helicopter orientation program for specialized undergraduate pilot training (SUPT) students is designed to introduce T-37 undergraduate pilot students to the missions and roles of Air Force helicopters. This instruction establishes the responsibilities and procedures to be followed in the execution of the program. It applies to all 19th Air Force (19 AF) organizations conducting or sponsoring helicopter orientation flights.

**1. Approval Authority.** The 58th Special Operations Wing (58 SOW)/CC is the approval authority for deployment of aircraft to conduct orientation flights. The host wing/CC is the final approval authority for execution of the orientation sorties and is responsible for ensuring compliance with DoD 4515.13R, *Air Transportation Eligibility*; AFI 11-401, *Flight Management*; AFI 11-401/AETC Sup 1, *Flight Management*; and AETCI 11-207, *Participation in Deployments, Employments, and Redeployment Briefings*.

**2. Waivers.** The 19 AF/DO is waiver authority for this instruction.

**3. Orientation Profiles.** The flight profile for the orientation program is designed to introduce the T-37 student to the normal operations of US Air Force helicopters. Adhere to guidance provided in AFI 11-401/AETC Sup 1. For the purpose of this program, multiple landings are approved at surveyed helicopter landing zones (HLZ) during orientation flights.

**3.1. Weather.** During student orientation flights, weather will be a minimum of a 700-foot ceiling and 3-statute-miles visibility.

**3.2. HLZ Requirements:**

**3.2.1. Size.** The HLZ will be a minimum of 300 feet in diameter with no obstructions higher than 3 feet within 100 feet of the intended touchdown point. The HLZ must have clear entry, exit, and abort routes.

**3.2.2. HLZ Location, Selection, and Survey.** HLZs will be located on the host wing airfield or auxiliary airfield and accessible by fire and rescue vehicles and personnel. The 58 SOW will coordinate with host wing in the selection and initial survey of an appropriate HLZ area.

**3.3. Passenger Restraint.** Orientation students will be properly restrained in a seat during all taxi, takeoff, climb, approach, and landing operations. Aircraft commanders of H-53 aircraft may authorize passengers to sit in the flight engineer's seat, with proper restraint, during cruise flight. Wing or group CC or mission commander may approve authorized passengers to sit in the flight engineer's seat, with proper restraint, during high and low reconnaissance patterns and multiple approaches and landings according to AFSOCI 11-208, volume I, *Helicopter Operations*, paragraph 5.4 (formerly AFSOCR 55-18, *Helicopter Operations*).

**3.4. Maneuvers.** During the orientation, no practice emergency procedures or tactical maneuvers will be performed. Flight to and from the HLZ will be at a minimum of 500 feet above ground level (AGL). Once in the vicinity of the HLZ, crews may fly patterns at an altitude no lower than 100 feet AGL and may perform all normal helicopter operations to include air landings, alternate insertion and extraction procedures, hover operations, approaches, and takeoffs.

#### **4. 58 SOW Responsibilities:**

4.1. The 58 Operational Support Squadron (58 OSS/DOO) will notify 19 AF/DOO of each off-station orientation mission and provide the date, location, number, and type of aircraft.

4.2. The 58 Operations Group (58 OG)/CC will designate a point of contact (POC) for each off-station orientation mission. This POC is responsible for establishing contact with the host wing POC to arrange lodging, transportation, transient alert requirements, local area orientation, and flight safety briefings.

4.3. The 58 OG/Standardization/Evaluation (OGV) will maintain a site book containing pictures of each surveyed HLZ, and a diagram depicting hazards, wind indicator location, intended landing location, and HLZ specifics (elevation, obstructions, restrictions, power requirements, altitude, and coordinates). The crew will take a copy of the applicable site book items with them to the host base and update as required.

4.4. Before orientation flights, 58 SOW crews will perform an airborne site survey, land at designated HLZ, and install a wind indicating device, if required.

4.5. The 58 SOW POC will brief off-station missions to the 58 SOW/CC or CV.

#### **5. Host Wing Responsibilities:**

5.1. Host OG/CC will designate a POC to work with 58 SOW POC to arrange lodging, transportation, transient alert requirements, local area orientation, and safety briefing. Host wing POC will coordinate dedicated block times for helicopter orientation sorties at host wing airfield or auxiliary field with appropriate scheduling agencies.

5.2. Host wing will ensure fire and rescue services are available during the flying operation.

5.3. Before the orientation flights, the host wing/CC will be briefed on the orientation profile and approve student participation.

W. THOMAS WEST, Major General, USAF  
Commander